

Vicks, Sear 4/13/69
11/26/72

Anahua TX. 5/4/97

Martinez, I Have a Successful

TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL GOSPEL MEETING

Introduction:

1. Our gospel meeting ~~is upon us, we must go, it will begin.~~ *ONE MORE WEEK! Let's make it a success!!!*
2. What success shall we have? *Let's have a good meeting!!!*
3. Many think the day of great meetings is over--NOT SO.
 - (1) Have been disappointed in results in past, so often
 - (2) Easy for us to make excuses for indifference of members:

(Denominations are led to dismiss Sunday night services)

Our ~~past~~ failures are indictments against us:

 - (a) The gospel is still powerful, able to save
 - (b) God is still omnipotent, all powerful,
 - (c) Man still hungering after truth and righteousness

Man still in need of salvation,

SO EASY FOR MEMBERS TO GIVE IN--MEETINGS NOT SUCCESSFUL
4. But there are some things needful for a successful meeting:

BODY:

I. PREPARATION---(Indispensable)

1. All things of value are worth working, preparing for.
 2. World understands importance of advertising--A way of life, millions spent here, must be a reason for so much.
 3. The hearts of members need preparing: We need to see the
 - (1) need of preaching; (2) the desire to participate; *Be a part*
 - (3) We need to grasp the value of the souls of mankind, Mt 16:26--Worth more than whole world.

Neighbors, families, our children, loved ones, etc.

 - (4) Meetings often killed because of lack of interest of the very ones sponsoring them; the members.
- Acts 20:20--Paul's concern for the lost:
- Mt 23:11--"Go"; Acts 8--they went--concerned
4. The preacher has made preparation: *Bro. [unclear] has given years in [unclear] to preach in [unclear]*
 - (1) Prepared himself through study and application
 - (2) His purpose in coming shows his concern for the lost
 - (3) He will do his part *Well known for his ability & love*
5. Time still left to prepare! *Bro*

II. PROSPECTS (Needed, but must be located)

1. Christ stated he "came to seek and save the lost"

His purpose in coming should be our purpose in the meeting.

John 4:35--"My meat..."
2. Do you have anyone in mind to invite and encourage?
3. So often the members reason, "I just can't do anything", but this is a vital need--seek prospects, invite, bring them.
4. *Think one person, try to interest at least one prospect.*

III. PREACHING: (Must be the right kind)--*Bro. [unclear] will not spend his time in totes & stories--Gospel*

1. 1 Cor 1:21--Takes preaching to save mankind.
2. What is needed--not always what people want--Gal 4:16
3. Men need to be made conscious of sin, need warning

Rom 1:16

IV. PRAYER: (No way to measure the value of this)

1. Often we limit God's power and ways to our own thinking
 2. 1 Thessa 5:17-- *WE COME BEFORE THRONE OF GOD-*
 3. When was the last time you offered a prayer for preacher, the word, success of a gospel effort?????
 4. We need to pray for ourselves, that we may care
- We need to pray for the lost--Rom 10:1:
- BUT WE NEED TO WORK ALSO.*

V. POSSIBILITIES:

1. God encouraged Paul--Acts 18:9-10--"much people in this city"

How many people does God have in this city????

If we but put effort and locate them, seek them out,
 2. Everytime the gospel is preached there is the possibility of leading someone out of sin, into Christ.
 3. The potential of seeing someone obey the gospel should lead us to do our very best, expend ourselves.
- The joy of influencing someone to obey Christ Jesus
- 3 John 4--Greater joy....children walking in faith...
- Acts 8:39--Eunuch went on his way rejoicing.
- Acts 16:34--*Phil. jailor, rejoiced, with all his house* -- *WHY?*

VI. PATIENCE:

1. We should approach the meeting being hopeful, anticipating results, both from within and without.
 2. Let us not become despondent, if results seem slow.
- Gal 6:9-- *Due time*
3. Be expectant, always expending the best.
- Nothing breeds success like success itself.
- Think good meeting, think good meeting, think good meeting.
4. John 4:35--"Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white already unto harvest"
- Brethren--the field is before us, may we have the courage to look, to work,

CONCLUSION:

1. Let's have a good meeting--WE CAN, if each one determines to do their best, ATTEND AND PRAY.
2. Brother *[unclear]* will preach the gospel, the truth,

You need to encourage him, hold his hands high, stand by his side, cheer him on,
3. You need the lessons He will deliver--make men free.
4. If you are not a child of God today, then this would be the best opportunity you shall ever have, Obey Christ NOW and work for the success of the salvation of others.